



TOWN OF MANSFIELD

OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
January 8th, 2013
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Frank Perrotti, Assistant Chair, Resident
Kathy McNamara, YSB Social Worker
Eileen Griffin, LCSW Resident
State Trooper Stephen King
Teri Hebert, Educational Consultant
Steven Martin, Graduate Social Work Intern
Gui Estes, Graduate Social Work Intern
Genevieve Rigler, E.O.Smith High School Student
Christine Lee, Director of STARR Program
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Guest: Thanh Nguyen, Principal of Mansfield Middle School

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Approval of minutes

- December 11, 2012 minutes were approved.

III. Reports

- Director's Report – Kevin Grunwald
 - Director's Report was presented
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak
 - **Big Friends Mentoring Program:** Thanh Nguyen, Mansfield Middle School Principal, provided pizza and beverages for all of the mentors, students, and parents. Our first semester at the middle school has been a big success and we

will be adding new students from our waiting list for the upcoming spring semester. The Big Friends mentors were given YSB Volunteer t-shirts.

- **School Support:** YSB staff participated in crisis intervention following the Newtown tragedy. Staff was available at the elementary schools as the students returned to school.
- **Cope:** The student participants and volunteers were given t-shirts highlighting the theme of the year, “Cope Teaches Me Teamwork.”
- **Girls’ Group:** The Girls’ Group started their second session at Mansfield Middle School. There are some returning members and some new members who are working on journaling.
- **Grief Matters:** Over twenty participants attended the Potluck Dinner on December 2, 2012. Many of these families have signed up for the Grief Matters 6 week program which will be starting in February.
- **Villari’s MMS Group:** Ken Caputo and his staff are working together with YSB to facilitate two groups during the school day at Mansfield Middle School. YSB and Mansfield Middle School are applying for a mini grant to support this program.
- **Boy’s Group:** The Boy’s Group will begin the end of January at MMS. There are over ten student participants and mentors from E. O. Smith and Eastern Connecticut State University.
- **Parent Group:** A group of middle school parents of children who participate in YSB programs met before the holidays to provide support and friendship to one another.
- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren:** The grandparents met for support and friendship. In addition, they received information regarding access to services. The grandparents were given a grocery store gift card to provide financial assistance.
- **UConn Community Outreach:** Collaborating to expand the structure of volunteers for next year’s programs at YSB to include program leaders for both Cope and Big Friends.

IV. Old Business

- Internet Safety Training (Community Center Babysitting Course)
 - Discussed the importance of having internet safety training. The Mansfield Middle School principal also mentioned that they will be

implementing internet safety training as well as an afterschool informational session for the parents. Mrs. Norrish will also be introducing the internet safety training at the Mansfield Middle School.

V. New Business

- Thanh Nguyen, principal of Mansfield Middle School, has been invited by the Advisory Board to be introduced to the board members and about our board's function.
 - Thanh Nguyen spoke very highly of his experience thus far in the Mansfield community. He also spoke about a school function that he went to on school safety. Mr. Nguyen talked about his collaboration with parents and students as well as the plans he has for improving Mansfield Middle School.

VI. Other

- Newtown Tragedy
 - There has been a coordinated effort between the town officials, school, and police to look at the security of our buildings.

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. January 7th , 2012 next meeting